

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 DODE-00 OMB-01 H-03 DRC-01 /116 W

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R 181322Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4056

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 1234

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: NEW IP CHAIRMAN SPEAKS ON DEFENSE ISSUE

REF: REYKJAVIK 1216

1. IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT ON DEFENSE ISSUE SINCE BECOMING CHAIRMAN OF OPPOSITION INDEPENDENCE PARTY, GEIR HALLGRIMSSON ATTEMPTED TO SHOW THAT HE WAS IN TUNE WITH THE TIMES WHILE STILL REMAINING FIRM SUPPORTER OF US-ICELANDIC MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. WHEN ASKED BY RADIO INTERVIEWER OCT 17 WHETHER HE BELIEVED AMERICAN MILITARY FORCE IN ICELAND COULD BE REDUCED HE SAID NUMBERS SHOULD BE "IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TIMES" AND HE WOULD AGREE TO REDUCTIONS "ONLY IF THE SECURITY OF ICELAND WOULD NOT BE JEOPARDIZED."

2. HALLGRIMSSON WAS ASKED WHETHER HIS PARTY WOULD SUPPORT PROPOSAL INTRODUCED AGAIN THIS YEAR IN ALTHING BY SOCIAL DEMOCRATS CALLING FOR BASE TO BE CONVERTED TO "UNARMED SURVEILLANCE STATION" MANNED BY ICELANDERS. HE SAID IP WOULD NOT SUPPORT THAT PROPOSAL BECAUSE HE QUESTIONED WHETHER ICELAND COULD SUPPLY TECHNICIANS NEEDED AND WHETHER ICELANDIC ECONOMY COULD AFFORD TO LOSE SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF LIMITED MANPOWER

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AVAILABLE.

3. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE FELT CURRENT MIDDLE EAST CRISIS SHOULD AFFECT ICELANDIC THINKING ON DEFENSE ISSUE, HE SAID ANY ARMED CLASH SHOULD CAUSE ICELAND TO BE CONCERNED FOR OWN DEFENSE AND THAT SIMILAR SITUATION IN 1956 AGGRAVATED BY HUNGARIAN CRISIS HAD CAUSED LEFTIST GOVERNMENT OF THAT TIME TO BACK AWAY FROM DECLARED INTENTION TO FORCE REMOVAL OF US SERVICEMEN.
IRVING

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Type: TE
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